


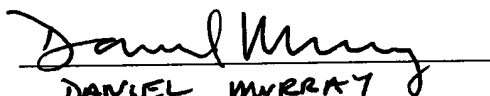
#5

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Reed et al.	Examiner: To be assigned
Serial No: 10/047,991	Art Unit: 1645
Filed: January 14, 2002	
For: <i>Purification of Functional Ribonucleoprotein Complexes</i>	Attorney Docket No. H MV-080.01



U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
Box Sequence, P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

<p align="center">CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING</p> <p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: U. S. Patent and Trademark Office, Box Sequence, P.O. Box 2327, Arlington, VA 22202, on May 10, 2002.</p> <p align="center"> DANIEL MURRAY</p>
--

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to substantive examination of the above-referenced application, please amend the specification as follows.

In the specification:

Please replace the paragraph at page 4, lines 17-30, with the following replacement paragraph:

In a preferred embodiment, the affinity tag binds to an affinity matrix through the intermediate of a fusion protein comprising a polypeptide binding specifically to the affinity tag and a polypeptide binding specifically to the affinity matrix. The affinity tag may comprise at least one MS2 or R17 coat protein recognition site and the polypeptide binding specifically to the affinity tag is an MS2 or R17 coat protein or portion thereof sufficient for binding to the MS2 or R17 coat protein recognition site, respectively. The polypeptide binding specifically to the affinity matrix may be selected from the group consisting of a maltose binding protein; a 6x His peptide (SEQ ID NO: 12); glutathione S transferase; or portion thereof sufficient to bind specifically to an affinity matrix. In one embodiment, the polypeptide